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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ALNWICK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

This report is again in the nature of a brief interim report.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The Area of the Alnwick Rural District remains at 93,000 acres
The number of Inhabited Houses is 3,801.
The Rateable Value is £52,143.
The Sum represented by a penny rate is £224. 8. 10.
The Population is estimated at 11,270 and this figure is taken as a basis in calculating the birth and death rates.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Birth Rate. The number of births - corrected for inward and outward transfer - was 178 and of these 97 were males and 81 females. There were four still births. Seventeen of the births were illegitimate.

Birth Rate	1945	- 15.8	per thousand per annum.
" "	1944	- 17.5	" " " "
	1943	- 13.3	" " " "
Birth Rate for England and Wales	1945	- 16.1	" " " "

The Death Rate. The number of deaths - corrected for inward and outward transfer was 137, and of these 76 were males and 61 females.

Death Rate	1945	- 12.2	per thousand per annum.
" "	1944	- 11.9	" " " "
" "	1943	- 12.3	" " " "
Death Rate for England and Wales	1945	- 11.4	" " " "

The Infantile Death Rate. The number of deaths in infants under one year of age was 5 (3 legitimate and 2 illegitimate)

Infantile Death Rate	1945	- 33.9	per thousand/births per annum.
" " "	1944	- 49.8	" " " "
" " "	1943	- 50.6	" " " "
Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales	1945	- 46	" " " "

Causes of Death at all ages.

Cerebro-spinal fever	- 1.	Diabetes	- 3.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	- 4.	Heart Disease	- 38.
Other forms of Tuberculosis	- 2.	Other Circulatory Diseases	- 25.
Influenza	- 1.	Respiratory Diseases	- 44.
Acute Poliomyelitis	- 1.	Digestive "	- 4.
Cancer	- 18.	Nephritis	- 6.
Acute Encaphelitis	- 1.	Suicide	- 1.
Premature birth	- 2.	Road Traffic Accidents	- 2.
All other causes	- 24.		

No deaths were caused by Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Diphtheria, Puerperal Fever, or Infantile Diarrhoea.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified (excluding Tuberculosis) was 108 made up as follows:-

Diphtheria	- 56.	Measles	- 14.
Scarlet Fever	- 13.	Malaria	- 2.
Whooping Cough	- 11.	Acute Poliomyelitis	- 1.
Chicken-pox	- 4.	Meningococcal Meningitis	- 1.
Infective Jaundice	- 4.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	- 1.
Opthalmic Neonatorum	- 1.		

The cases of Diphtheria were mostly in the Radcliffe Area and were part of an epidemic prevalent in Amble & Radcliffe during the greater part of the year.

The cases of Infective Jaundice and Malaria were amongst the Military.

Twenty one of the cases of Diphtheria had previously been immunised, but in most of them the disease was of a mild character.

Thirty three of the cases of Diphtheria and three of the cases of Infective Jaundice were admitted to the Alnwick Fever Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

One hundred and sixty six children completed the full course of immunisation during the year.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Eleven cases of this disease were notified of which 7 were in males and 4 in females. There were no notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

WATER SUPPLIES.

A water survey report covering all public and private water supplies in the District was presented to the Council by the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor in March.

In December the Council resolved to appoint Messrs. D. Balfour & Sons (Consulting Engineers) to enquire into and report on the question of improving the water supply throughout the whole of the District.

Quantity of Water. Apart from burst pipes, causing temporary interruption, no serious shortage was experienced by consumbers on public supplies during the year, with the exceptions as noted in the annual report for 1944 viz:-

> Parts of the Craster and Dunstan supply area, and part of the Hauxley and Togston area.
>
> I have again to note that during the summer months in annumber of cases, the yields of sources were only just sufficient to meet demands.

Quality of Water. All public supplies were examined bacteriologically during the year with generally satisfactory results although some supplies show a deterioration in quality

after heavy rain. Alnmouth supplies continue to be chlorinated. The Ministry of Health did not sanction the installation of a chlorination plant on the Hauxley and Togston system.

Of the 3801 inhabited houses in the District 2371 are supplied from Public Water Mains.

Disinfection and Disinfestation. In December the Council appointed a full-time Rodent Operator. Council Refuse Depots were baited at quarterly intervals by a Contractor.

30 disinfections were carried out during the year.

HOUSING RURAL WORKERS.

During the year grants were offered in respect of eighteen houses under the above Act.

(Sgnd.) B. TREVOR-ROPER.

Medical Officer of Health.